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PREMIER FLEMMING'S MILL CUTTING LUMBER FOR BRIDGES

Report That the Premier Would Accept Nomination in York—"Various Persons" Get Vast Sums of Money—Proof That Children Figure in the Pay Rolls—\$56,000 Only One-Fifth of the Deficit

Fredericton, N. B., March 30, 1912. If the public did not have the proof of the entries in the Auditor-General's Report, it might be hard for a great many of the electors throughout the province to believe that the Premier of the Province, Hon. J. K. Fleming, is a lumberman and in the business of selling lumber and that further he has supplied the province, whose destinies he is guiding at the present time with supplies from his lumber yard. On page 140 of the Auditor's Report of 1908 the name of J. K. Fleming appears as supplying lumber to a bridge in Carleton county and being paid a good price for the same.

Since then it is not openly shown in the accounts that he is selling his product to the government but he was openly charged in the House of Assembly in debate the other day by one of his colleagues from Carleton County that the mill in which the lumber is sawed, that is being supplied to the extent of thousands of dollars for building and repairs of bridges, is sawed in a mill owned by the Premier of the Province. Although that statement has been made for several days no denial of it has been forthcoming. The lumber is not sold in the name of Premier Fleming, however, but in that of Messrs. Price & Nevers, two young men who up to a short time ago were employed in the usual way in the mill of J. K. Fleming. All at once they branched out into business for themselves and to-day are running the mill of their former employer and selling lumber to the government of which he is the Premier. That is the whole story in a nutshell; although there are others who go further and talk about where the lumber was cut and the stumpage that it paid and the affairs generally in connection with the Blue Bell Tract.

If the charge was made in the Federal House at Ottawa that a member was personally deriving any benefit or was personally interested through lessees or others in the selling of supplies to the government there would be a cry of indignation from every newspaper in Canada. Here in New Brunswick, we seem to

take things easier. During the last judge for himself as to whether he few years it has been known that has kept his word or not: the names of members in business appear again and again in the Auditor-General's report as selling supplies to the province and although there is a section in the election law which says that "No person whatsoever holding or engaging in undertaking or executing, directly or indirectly, alone or with anyone, by himself or with the interposition of a trustee or third party, in contract or agreement with his majesty or with any public office or department with respect to the public service in New Brunswick or under which any public money of New Brunswick is expended, for any services or work, matter or thing, shall be eligible as a member of the Legislative Assembly nor shall he sit or vote in the same."

And in another section it prescribes the penalty: "No person disqualified by this charter shall sit or vote in the Legislature and he shall hereby forfeit the sum of \$200 for every day on which he so sits or votes and such sum may be recovered from him by any person who will sue for the same by action in any court of competent civil jurisdiction in the province."

That is the law of the country and yet our chief lawmaker, Premier Fleming, violated it in 1908 and if we give the section quoted above a wide interpretation, is violating it to-day.

But what of that? Many things are being done by the governing body of the province to-day that would have been looked at askance years ago. There seems to be a very revel of graft and opportunism. There are scores, yes, hundreds of eager supplicants here asking for favors and getting them too. Some of them want appointments, others are looking for orders for material, many are seeking encouragement for railway charters and the number of those who wish to be in the ring, introduced into the favor of railway contractors on the Valley Railway are legion.

The resources of New Brunswick cannot stand the strain. Even if the revenues are nearly half as large again as under the old government the expenditures are far more than keeping pace with the increase. This is proven by the fact that there was a deficit of the enormous sum of \$56,000 on last year's operations. That \$56,000 represents only one fifth of the deficit, and it might be said that the lengths to which the Fleming government have gone are not too great provided the province obtained value for the expenditure. But there is nothing whatever to show in the public accounts that value has been received in the construction of the public works which the members of the government are claiming every day to have been adding to the assets of the province. The Auditor-General's report is one of the barest things imaginable. In every case where it is possible the expenditures are hidden and the farmer or merchant or professional man throughout New Brunswick who is able to get one of these reports upon the provincial expenditures, will seek in vain to obtain that information to which he has a perfect right. Hon. John Morrissey, the Chief Commissioner of Public Works, has gone back on the promise that he made in the House of Assembly a year ago to have a pamphlet prepared that would give to the people of New Brunswick a full, complete and detailed statement of the expenses in his department. There is a story current that this pamphlet was prepared but that the exposures in it of graft, of padded pay lists, of extortionate prices and waste were so apparent that it was not published and never will be published. This is the statement he made in the House and every reader of this article can

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If the people of New Brunswick are able to take the Auditor-General's reports of 1909 and 1910 and compare them with that of 1911 they would see the very great difference that exists; they could easily see where the concealment is made. They would find in the reports of 1909 and 1910 that where a bridge was repaired the money spent upon labor was shown as spent for that purpose, the money spent upon structural superintendents was shown as being spent for structural superintendents and the money paid to foremen was shown as paid to foremen. The rates of wages and the number of days these men worked were also shown. In the report of this year there is nothing of those accounts. After the publication of those two reports when the people realized the enormous sums that were being wasted upon the political pets, the grafters and parish organizers of the party, there was such a storm of protest from every county that the government felt it must make a change in the way the report was handed out and so instead of following out the programme announced by Hon. John Morrissey, instead of publishing the full expenditures, giving the name of every man who received a dollar, stating the number of days he worked; instead of doing all this, the expenditures upon lumber and superintendents and foremanship, on the thousands of ordinary bridges and wharves in the province are concealed under the caption of "Various Persons."

"Various Persons" in many cases turned out to be a delusion and a fraud. The Opposition in the Legislature have plenty of proof that in scores and scores of cases these "Various Persons" include the names of children and names which are not known at all in the parish where the work was done. Now it must be left to the common sense of the people to decide. Would it not be fairer to them, would it not be fairer to the province, if a little more money were spent upon the printing of the Auditor-General's report, a little more time taken in its preparation and the name of every man in the country

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who received a dollar for public work of any kind given to the people. They then would be in a position to judge whether that dollar was properly earned or whether it was stolen. These accounts all have to be sworn to before a Justice of the Peace, before any payments are made upon them by the government and even the political pets and playthings of the administration, even their most unscrupulous grafters and opportunists, even those who are reckless in everything, would hesitate before they put the name of a man down as receiving so much money, before they placed the name of a ten year old boy upon the pay roll and charged full wages of a man, before they inserted names into that pay roll that never existed, except in their imagination. They would hesitate indeed before they perjured themselves for the sake of a few paltry dollars.

That is what publicity means, that is what the Opposition in the Legislature, the Liberals in the Legislature are fighting for. As usual they are on the side of the people and they want the people to know exactly what is going on and it will be one of the planks that Mr. Copp will give the country, that every item of expenditure, no matter in what department, no matter who spends it, will be available for the people of the country to read and to criticize.

OBITUARY

MRS. JACOB McLELLAN.

Died at her home, Belleville, Carleton County, March 16th, after a lingering illness, Ann Eliza, wife of the late Jacob A. McLellan. She was 82 years and four months of age. She is survived by ten children, all living in Carleton county. Three daughters, Mrs. John McBride, of Hartford, Mrs. Thomas Strong, of Lindsay, Mrs. Alexander Strong of Grafton, and seven sons, George and Woodford of Belleville, Allan and John of Oakville, Joseph of Plymouth, Frederick and Benjamin at home. One stepdaughter Mrs. Wm. Baker, of Lindsay and one brother, John

Wilson, of Richmond. Besides a large number of relatives.

Funeral service was attended by Rev. M. Charman of Belleville, and Rev. H. Pierce of Centerville, Car. Co.

HON. GEORGE W. WHITE.

The Hon. George W. White, who died at his home in Centerville, was almost eighty-five years of age, and had been a well known figure years ago in the public life of the province. He was of Loyalist descent, his grandfather coming to St. John at the close of the American Revolution. Hon. Mr. White was born in Queens county in 1827. In 1868, or the year after confederation, he was elected a member of the legislature for Carleton county, and held the seat until 1873, when he resigned to contest the county unsuccessfully for a seat in the federal parliament. From 1872 until 1873 he was a member of the executive council. Mr. White was re-elected to the legislature in 1878, and again in 1882. Later he was appointed to the legislative council and was a member when it was abolished. He was deeply interested in public affairs and a vigorous writer, whose letters in the press on public questions were familiar to the older generation of citizens. Mr. White was a man of undoubted ability and played an important part in Carleton County politics for many years.

To whom it may concern: This is to certify that I have used MINARD'S LINIMENT myself as well as prescribed it in my practice where a liniment was required and have never failed to get the desired effect.

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